

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow




PUBLISHED BY THE COLLEGE
Chestertown, Maryland

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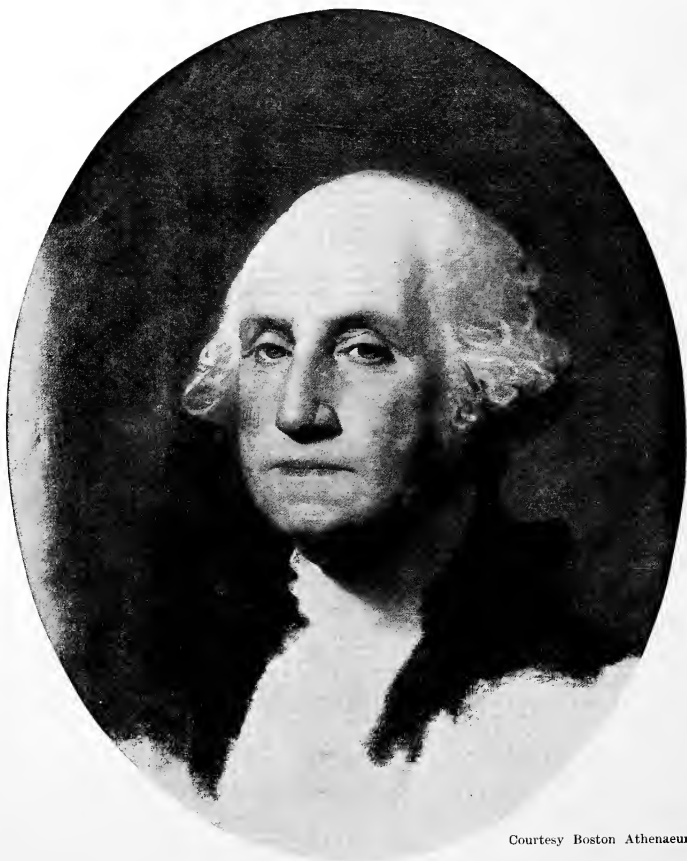


WASHINGTON COLLEGE

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

"In civilized societies, the welfare of the state and happiness of the people are advanced or retarded, in proportion as the morals and education of the youth are attended to. I can not forbear on this occasion to express the satisfaction which I feel on seeing the increase of our seminaries of learning through this extensive country, and the general wish which seems to prevail for establishing and maintaining these valuable institutions.

"It affords me peculiar pleasure to know that the Seat of Learning under your direction hath attained such proficiency in the Sciences since the Peace; and I sincerely pray the great Author of the Universe may smile upon the institution, and make it an extensive blessing to this country."—*George Washington to Dr. William Smith, President of Washington College, July 11, 1789.*



Courtesy Boston Athenaeum

GEORGE WASHINGTON, LL. D., 1789

FIRST CONTRIBUTOR TO COLLEGE AND MEMBER FIRST BOARD OF VISITORS AND GOVERNORS.

PAGE SIX

TRANSLATION OF DIPLOMA

Granted to George Washington, June 24, 1789, when Washington College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

We, the Principal and Faculty of Washington College in the State of Maryland in the United States of America, to all men to whom these Presents may come, Greeting:

Whereas, Academic Degrees were wisely established by our Ancestors to the end that public Honors might be accorded to those Men who have best served Religion, Letters and the State, and whereas it has been made manifest to us and to all men that George Washington, President of the United States of America, has always and well served not only Religion, Letters and the State and even the whole Human Race, but in War as well as in Peace being most eager for the common safety amidst the gravest crisis, has proved himself a most eminent Citizen, a most successful Defender of Liberty, and a most fond father of his Country. We, therefore, influenced by the foregoing considerations in accordance with the express Mandate of the Visitors and Governors of this College (by the unanimous vote of all) at the Public Commencement held on the 24th day of June, 1789, have pronounced and declared this same eminent and most distinguished Man Doctor of Civil and Canon Law and beg him by virtue of this Diploma to enjoy among his fellow Washingtonians all the Rights, Privileges and Honors belonging to that Decree.

In witness of which Thing we have affixed our Names and the public Seal of the College to this Diploma.

WILLIAM SMITH, S.T.D., Principal

COLIN FERGUSON, D. D., Professor of Languages and
of Mathematics

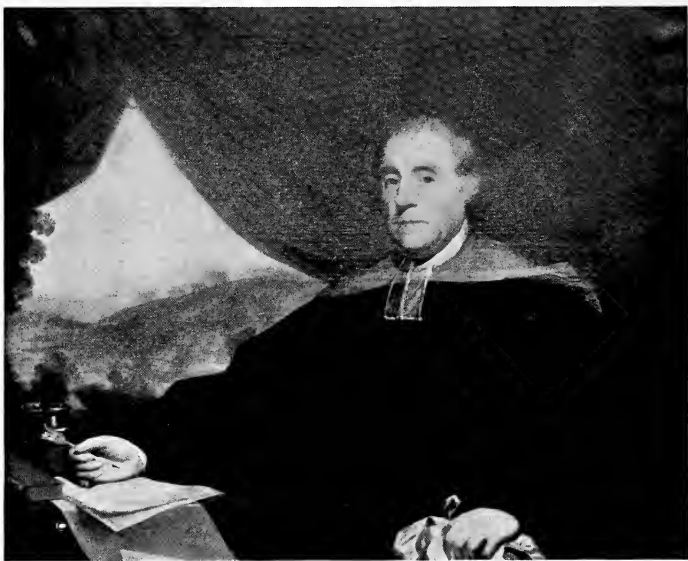
PEREGRINE LETHERBURY, Professor of Law, pro tem

SAMUEL ARMOR, Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy

SAMUEL KEENE, Professor of English and of Oratory

Original in MS. Division, Library of Congress

REV. WILLIAM SMITH, D. D.
FOUNDER OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE



He was born in North Scotland, 1727; graduated from University of Aberdeen, 1747; taught three years in Scotland; came to America, 1751; became first Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, 1759-1779; received honorary D. D. from Oxford, Aberdeen, and Trinity College (Dublin); founded Washington College, 1782; was chosen first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Maryland, 1783, but was never consecrated; served a second term as Provost of University of Pennsylvania, 1789-1791; died 1803.

Colonial Days

“I am much indebted” wrote George Washington in 1782 “for the honor conferred on me, by giving my name to the College at Chester.”

In this letter to his friend, Rev. Dr. William Smith, General Washington also expressed the hope that the fortunes of the incipient college would prosper and donated “the trifling sum of Fifty Guineas as an Earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of this seminary.” Two years later he consented to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors.

The college to which George Washington lent his name, his interest and his support was the product of the combination of two elements. The first of these was the Kent County public school, an institution of more than sixty years’ standing and, by 1780, of considerable strength and community importance. The second element was the Rev. William Smith, D.D., a Scot by birth, educated at the University of Aberdeen, who came to America in 1751 and served the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) as its first provost from 1759 until its charter was revoked.

In 1780 Dr. Smith came to Chestertown as rector of the Anglican Church. A man of great enthusiasm,



WILLIAM SMITH
First President
1782-1789

energy and vitality, Dr. Smith successfully prosecuted many projects during his nine-year stay. He called together here the conference of church dignitaries who gave the Protestant Episcopal Church of America its name. During four years he rode on horseback back and forth between Easton and Chestertown—a distance of thirty-six miles—to institute the Grand Lodge of Maryland, A. F. and A. M. Less than six months after his arrival in Maryland, William Smith was given charge of the Kent County School. After two years of his guidance the school had grown till 140 students were enrolled, and the visitors petitioned that a college charter be granted. The state agreed, with the provision that £10,000 be raised, within five years, for the support of the fledgling institution. Dr. Smith mounted his horse and, riding from town to town and from farm to farm, raised more than the required amount in less than five months.

Dr. Smith's wide acquaintance among the great men of colonial days insured for the Board of Visitors and Governors of the new college, besides General Washington, such men as John Page, Robert Goldsborough, Joshua Seney, and His Excellency, William Paca, governor of Maryland. As the specified £10,000 had been raised, the name of Washington had been granted, and an official board of imposing names had been accumulated, the Maryland legisla-



ture immediately granted the college charter on October 15, 1782. The regular activities of the new-born college went smoothly on to such a good purpose that the following spring, on May 14, 1783, the first commencement took place. At these exercises the audience enjoyed two forensic disputes, one in Latin and the other on the subject: "Whether the state of nature be a state of war?" and four orations, one in French and two in Latin.

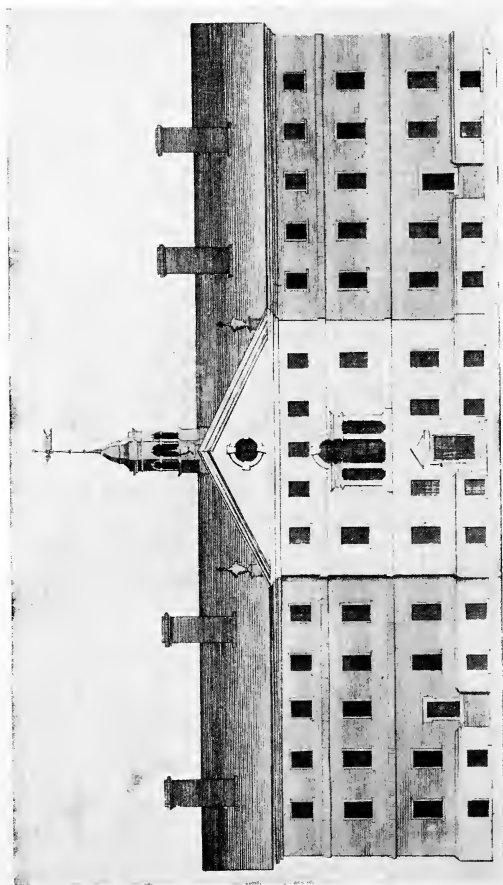
The following day a great procession formed in the town and marched to the hill, a short distance to the north, for the exercises attending the laying of the cornerstone for the new college building. The students contributed to the ceremony two French orations and a pastoral play, while the address of the occasion was delivered by one of the Visitors, Governor William Paca, who was accorded a salute of thirteen discharges of cannon.

The first of two other highlights in the early history of the College occurred in 1784, when Washington visited the College. The students acted before him and a great crowd the tragedy of "Gustavus Vasa", the deliverer of Sweden from Danish oppression. At its conclusion Dr. Smith pointed to Washington and said: "Behold the Gustavus of America!" On the second occasion, in 1789, Washington was the recipient of the degree of Doctor of Laws.



WILLIAM PACA
Governor of Maryland

THE FIRST HOME OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE



This building, a frame structure 160 feet long, situated on the terrace where the boys' dormitories now stand, was built in 1783, the cornerstone being laid by Governor William Paca. It was completely destroyed by fire January 10, 1827.

Dark Period of the College

For Washington College the year 1789 was Janus-headed. The smiling face looked back to the first years of the College, under the inspired direction of William Smith and with the warm personal support of George Washington, William Paca and others. The serious face looked forward to years of discouraging disinterest, meagre financial support, and disastrous destruction by fire.

The first blow to the College came when Dr. Smith resigned in 1789 to return to the presidency of the University of Pennsylvania. A successor, adequate both in training and qualities of intellectual leadership, was appointed in the person of the Rev. Colin Ferguson, D.D., a Kent County man who had received his education at Edinburgh, Scotland.

Far worse than the resignation of Dr. Smith was the removal of the state's financial props from under the little college. The annual appropriation of £1,250, or perhaps \$6000, was reduced to £500 about 1789 and entirely discontinued two years later with the result that Dr. Ferguson retired to his farm in Kent County. This sum may not seem to be so essential to the life of an institution, but a visitor to the College in 1796 writes, "For \$16 all the branches of learning which are taught may be acquired . . . boarders



COLIN FERGUSON
Second President
1789-1804

pay \$80 or \$90 for their board'', and when we realize that registration had fallen considerably below one hundred, we can readily see the absolute dependence of the College upon state appropriation. In 1812 an annual appropriation of \$800 was declared, but in 1834 this was reduced to \$500, and so matters stood till 1848.

The crowning disaster came on January 10, 1827. The Chestertown *Telegram* reported on the next day:

“Between the hours of 7 and 8 last night the alarm of fire was given in our village. It was soon discovered to proceed from Washington College.”

The commodious building of the College, affording living and learning quarters for faculty and student body, was entirely consumed, with the library, many valuable documents, and the private property of the occupants. After the conflagration classes were held in a spacious old brick dwelling in the town, till in 1839 it too was leveled by fire. For the next five years the College utilized an old structure occupying the site of the present Elementary School.

Despite the ravages of fire and the parsimony of the state, the College continued its business of graduating young men educated to leadership. In 1795 Washington College graduated her second governor, Thomas Ward Veazey. Robert Wright was senator



for Maryland in 1801 and was elected governor while serving in the former capacity. He was educated at the Kent County School, and must have been graduated about 1770.

Possibly because many of the early principals were ministers of the gospel, the College produced preachers of note. Among them were William Murray Stone, of the class of 1799, who became in 1830 third Protestant Episcopal bishop of Maryland; William Holland Wilmer, of the class of 1802, who became the eleventh president of William and Mary College in 1826; and Dr. John Emory, of the class of 1805, who assisted in the organization of New York University, Wesleyan University, and Dickinson College, and was in 1832 elected tenth bishop of the Methodist Church.

Of lawyers, "full of wise saws and modern instances," the dark period produced Samuel Maxwell Harrington, graduated in 1823, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware at the age of 27 and one of the most brilliant legal minds that state has even known. John Woodland Crisfield, of the class of 1828, practised law for 65 years in Princess Anne, Maryland, served in Congress several times, became the warm friend of Lincoln, executed the construction of the Eastern Shore Railway, and became the namesake of its southern



WILLIAM MURRAY STONE
1802
Bishop of Maryland



JOHN EMORY, 1805
Bishop M. E. Church

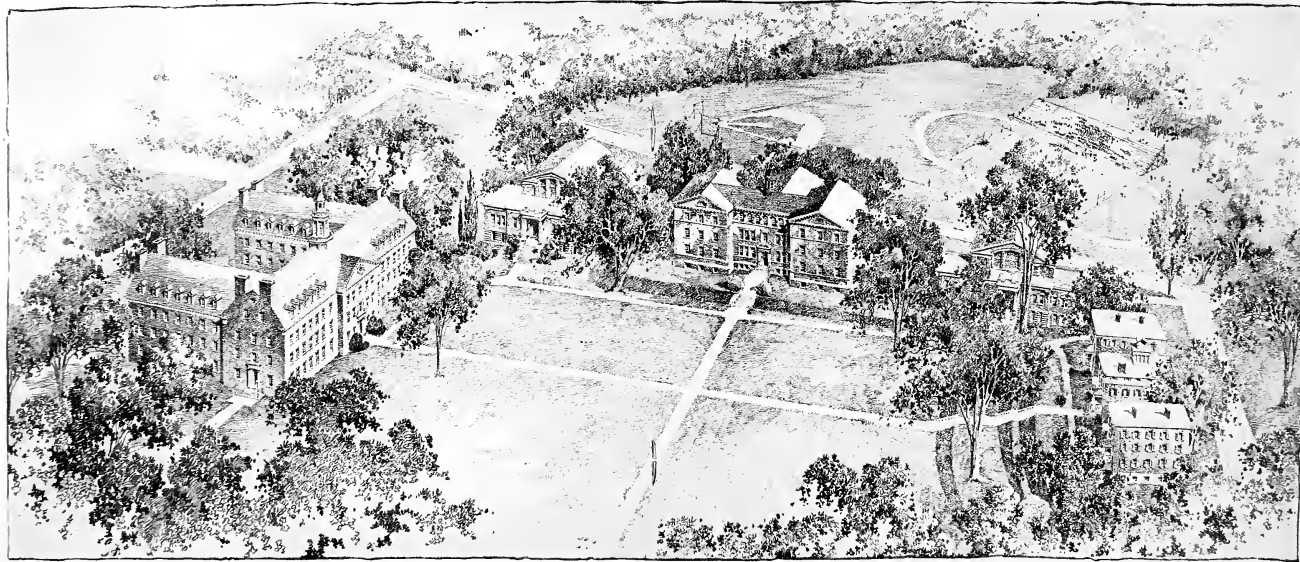
terminus, Crisfield, Maryland. Among the lawyers we must not neglect to mention Ezekiel Foreman Chambers, of the class of 1805, who, however, was also a captain in the army, U. S. senator from Maryland, Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Maryland, an LL.D. from Yale, and for 25 years chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College.

These are a few of the names which brighten the dark period of the College's existence. Any college which has trained such men for state and national service may surely feel that it has not lived in vain.

Evolution of the Present Plant

Washington College was, in 1834, in possession of no buildings, no money, and few students. This was after fifty years of collegiate existence and more than double that time of educational service. As assets the College boasted an excellent site, the support of alumni and community, and the presidency of Richard W. Ringgold, A.M., a man of rare personal qualities and high teaching ability. For a time the college roster was so depleted that President Ringgold was the entire faculty. After several years of his administration, the employment of two

THE DREAM CAMPUS OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE



The building in the middle background, William Smith Hall; that at the right, the Gymnasium; and the three at the extreme right of the picture, the boys' dormitories constitute the present group on the main campus. The large building at the extreme left is the proposed boys' dormitory, and the structure to its right, the library (projected).



JOHN E
Bishop

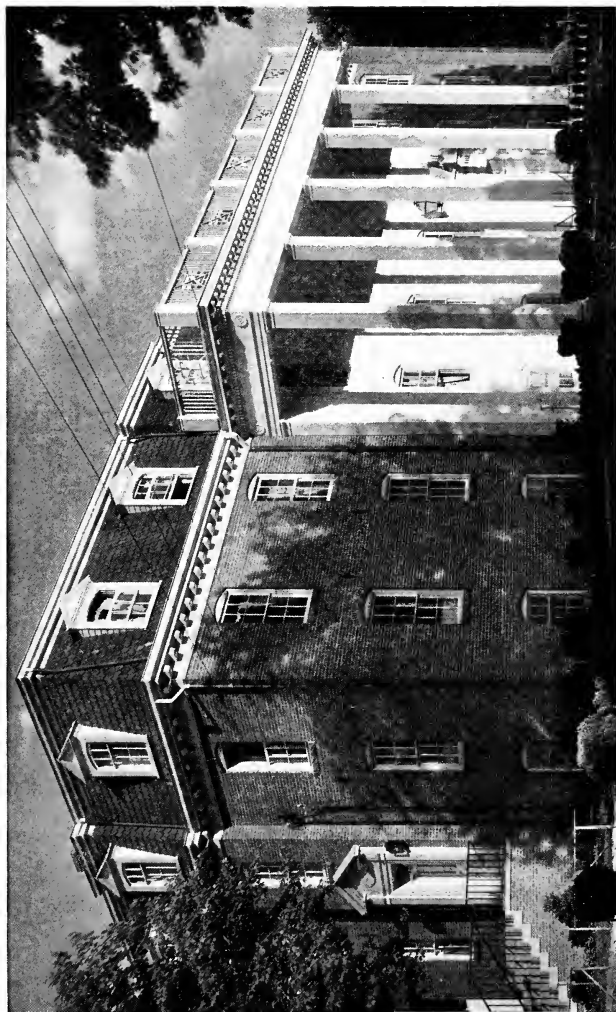
assistants was necessary, and the College commenced a recuperation from its lowest ebb.

By the year 1843 the greatest need of the College was a building. At a meeting called by one of the Board of Visitors and Governors for the purpose of deciding definitely that construction was impossible. the bolder spirits seized the bull by the horns and passed a resolution, six votes to two, to commence building immediately. The contract was let to Elijah Reynolds, of Port Deposit, a famous architect, who designed and built so honestly that the work of his hands is today serving faithfully as the Middle Hall dormitory. The corner stone was laid on May 4, 1844 and on the first of the following year the faculty and students marched up the hill and took formal possession. In 1849 was graduated the first class to receive diplomas since the great fire of 1827.

The credit for bringing the College triumphantly through these dark days belongs properly to President Ringgold, who was appointed in 1833 when the lamp of learning burned but dimly. When President Ringgold left twenty-one years later, the College was so prosperous that two new buildings were under construction flanking the hall erected in 1845. These are known as East and West Halls and are doing dormitory service at the present time. The halls were completed and dedicated under President Ring-



THE REID HALL OF TODAY



The remodeled Reid Hall houses most attractively and comfortably the women students of Washington College. For its new form the architect, Henry Powell Hopkins, definitely utilized the Mt. Vernon motif. It is a structure of dignity and beauty.

gold's successor, the Rev. Dr. Francis Waters, of whom John W. Crisfield said: "Dr. Waters was highly esteemed as a teacher; he was remarkable as a disciplinarian, and was thoroughly devoted to his business." He had assisted in 1828 in the founding of the Methodist Protestant Church, had served as president of the Maryland Conference of that denomination for four terms, and had successfully administered the affairs of Washington College from 1817 to 1823. His second term was inaugurated in 1854 and terminated when the country trembled on the threshold of Civil War.



FRANCIS WATERS

*Fifth and Ninth
President*

1817-1823; 1854-1860

The era of reconstruction after the war was one of poverty and depression for the South and for Washington College. At one time the undergraduate registration totalled only thirty-five, while but two professors were required. Throughout the two decades following the Civil War, the little college struggled to regain the prestige and support it had lost. The administration, 1873-1887, of William J. Rivers, A. M., was notable for reestablishing the scholarly reputation of the College. The gifts of President Rivers, however, were for instruction, not for organization or advertising. Graduates were cultured, but they were few.

State support and the leadership of Dr. Charles W. Reid, who assumed the reins in 1889, were to-

REID HALL AS NORMAL HALL



Built originally in 1896 to house the normal department of the College, it became a girls' dormitory in 1910, and was re-named Reid Hall in 1922 after President Charles W. Reid. This building was completely remodeled in 1929 in the style of Mt. Vernon, in keeping with the name of the College and its colonial origin. (For new Reid Hall, see page 18.)

gether responsible for enlarging and modernizing the plant and multiplying the enrollment. In 1892 nearly 120 students matriculated at the College. In the summer of that year the community built a gymnasium, which was equipped by the generosity of the Board. The munificence of the state, atoning for the neglect of former years, financed the erection of the three most pretentious and essential buildings on the campus. In 1896, Normal Hall, officially renamed Reid Hall in 1922 (after President Reid), was constructed, which since the abolition of that department in 1910 has served as a dormitory for women students. This was followed in 1906, under the administration of James W. Cain, by a commodious administration building, housing both office forces and all the instruction of the College. This building resembles in effect the original building of the College, and was christened, in appreciation of the illustrious founder, William Smith Hall. A fire in 1916 demolished the building, but it was immediately replaced by one almost identical in every respect. The state continued its beneficence by replacing with a modern plant in 1912 the old gymnasium, antiquated by the phenomenal advances of college sport.



CHARLES W. REID
Fourteenth President
1889-1903



JAMES W. CAIN
Fifteenth President
1903-1918

The College, Today and Tomorrow

At the present time, Washington College is in its most prosperous period. Its modern plant, manned by an enthusiastic and entirely competent staff, handles its full quota of 250 students. The College has only a small debt and it operates within its budget.



J. S. WILLIAM JONES
*Sixteenth President
(Acting)*
1918-1919
Professor and Dean
1892-

The growth of the College in the last decade has necessitated more than doubling the staff. The 1930-1931 catalogue lists a faculty of twenty-three, of whom three belong to the Department of Physical Training, one is librarian and one is instructor of music. It is with great pride that Washington points to twelve doctors' degrees and six masters' degrees among the regular teaching staff of twenty-three. The splendid services of two professors, Dean J. S. William Jones, professor of Mathematics, and Dr. James Roy Micou, Vice-President and professor of Latin, Emeritus, total eighty-one years. The sound financial status of the College is in a large measure the result of the watchful eye and skilled guidance of Mr. James W. Johns, who has held since 1927 the post of Business Manager. At present, the Board of Visitors and Governors is a group entirely in accord with the highest traditions of the College, headed by Hiram S. Brown, president of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum organization. Athletics at the College are under the direction of Coach J. Thomas

Kibler, whose basketball teams are dreaded by opponents everywhere. Kibler coaches because he loves real sport and real men.

During the administration of Paul Emerson Tittsworth, Ph.D., LL.D., begun in 1923, the College has been widely advertised, its resources developed, and its organization, plant, and curriculum modernized. The capacity crowd of students, the enlarged and beautified campus, and the sound ideals and progressive ideas of the College are attributable to the co-operative enthusiasm which animates both the Board of Visitors and Governors and the administrative and instructional staffs.

With the rapid growth of the student body, new housing space had to be found. The College gained possession, by purchase and by the gift of Colonel Clarence Hodson, of the two houses on Washington Avenue directly adjacent to those occupied by the President, the Registrar and the Business Manager. Three fraternities, two of them occupying these houses and the third quartered in the southern half of East Hall, have solved the dormitory difficulty for the men students. These fraternities have been functioning smoothly and harmoniously for several years. The almost magical transformation of Reid Hall from an insufficient brick oblong, with a raised veranda in the style of the nineties, to an imposing colonial structure, with a colonnaded facade



JAMES R. MICOU
*Professor and Vice
President Emeritus
1887-1927*



CLARENCE P. GOULD
*Seventeenth President
1919-1923*

THE MEMORIAL GATEWAY



This gateway, erected in 1929 by money contributed by the classes of 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, is the first unit of a beautiful colonial wall which will some time, it is hoped, enclose the entire main campus. The boulder in the left foreground was placed in 1927 by Old Kent Chapter D. A. R. in commemoration of Washington's having allowed his name to be used as that of the College.

almost exactly duplicating the porch of Mt. Vernon, solved most satisfactorily the question of where to put the increasing number of women students. The building now furnishes quarters for seventy-five students; its social parlors are spacious and luxuriously appointed, while the landscaping of the surrounding lawns makes the building's setting as attractive as its design.

Several contributions to the beauty of the main campus have also preserved the traditions of the College and the associations with its namesake. To commemorate the 143rd birthday of the College on October 22, 1925, the Old Kent Chapter of the D. A. R. unveiled at the foot of the path leading to William Smith Hall a stone and tablet memorializing the fact of General Washington's giving his name to the institution in 1782 and receiving from it several years later the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Half way up this path there was planted on April 26, 1928, a grandson seedling of the great elm at Cambridge, beneath which, on July 3, 1775, Washington assumed command of the Continental Army. The path is now flanked by an imposing brick gateway, harmonizing with all the buildings and topped by ornate lamps of colonial design. This gateway is the gift of four of the classes. Student and alumni generosity is responsible for the impressive stand of structural steel on the newly laid-out athletic field.



HIRAM S. BROWN, '00
Chairman of Board
1922-



PAUL E. TITSWORTH
Eighteenth President
1923-

WASHINGTON COLLEGE AROUND 1890



The College then consisted of but these three buildings, which served as dormitories and refectory for students and teachers and also as recitation halls. Now, these structures, remodeled, serve as the boys' dormitories.

Washington College possesses a campus unsurpassed in the East, fine buildings carefully designed and located for harmony of effect, and a highly-qualified faculty complete with a student body that has been at all times loyal. Further growth is, however, almost impossible without the construction of several buildings, foremost of all a new boys' dormitory. The present plant, even with its recent enlargements, cannot conceivably handle more than 300 students, and it seems certain that registration in the near future could equal or surpass that number. The proposed dormitory, plans for which have been drawn, would provide for the expansion of the College to the 400 mark, or even a bit beyond. The lower end of the campus furnishes an admirable site for this beautiful yet economical building, which will complete a quadrangle of surpassing loveliness.

Washington College believes in the educational ministry of beauty. In common with all the better American colleges, it has adopted a well-considered plan of campus beautification.

Because the institution is eighteenth century in origin it aims to employ in future construction the colonial style, already represented in William Smith Hall and the new Reid Hall, and native to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The proposed Boys' Dormitory, Field House, and Social Hall will follow the





Georgian manner. Sometime it is hoped, also, to join the present boys' dormitories by colonnades and to add colonial porticoes to these buildings, the oldest on the campus.

Already, too, Washington has begun a program of landscaping which shall conform to its architecture and to its origin and location. By planting the campus with shrubs, trees, and flowers, either indigenous to or easily grown on this Peninsula, the College aims eventually to landscape its grounds like an Eastern Shore colonial estate. Notable as a beginning toward this end is the beautiful planting of box made recently on the girls' campus.

To complete the colonial picture, Washington, through the generosity of the classes of 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932, has erected an imposing gateway at its main entrance for pedestrians. As rapidly as funds permit the idea will be further materialized in a low brick wall extending around the main campus with large, ornamental gateways for vehicular traffic.

Such a campus, beautiful in all its details, planted and constructed upon in a style appropriate to the beginnings and traditions of the College as a Maryland institution, can not but enrich the life of its students and improve the quality of their citizenship.

The incalculable depths in the soul of man which the charm of lovely surroundings reaches, mellows, and matures, were attested by the poet Wordsworth when he wrote that Nature

“can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thought, that neither evil tongues,
Rash judgment, nor the sneers of selfish men,
Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all
The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e’er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith that always we behold
Is full of blessings.”

Such is the power of beauty. Washington himself spent most of his teens in field and forest, while his later years were passed in the peaceful pastures and the dignified mansion at Mt. Vernon, so similar in spirit, tradition and architectural design to the rolling campus, and the colonial buildings of the college that bears his name.

This plan for completing one of the finest small college organizations in the country is in keeping with Washington's ideals of progressive thinking and the highest service to mankind. Like the Washington College of the past 148 years of conscientious effort, the Washington College of the future will strive to continue to fulfill the prophecy of General Washington expressed in his letter to William Smith of August 18, 1782: “When that period shall arrive, when we can hail the blest return of peace, it will add to my pleasure to see this infant seat of learning rising into consistence and proficiency in the sciences under the nurturing hands of its founders.”



What's Washington College For?

General Aims

In general Washington College is dedicated to developing in its students an appreciation of the fine art of living.



As a liberal arts college it teaches, not so much a profession, as a way of life. It attempts, by increasing the contact of boys and girls with the rich heritage of the race, to pull the trigger which shall release their own creative possibilities.

As a Southern institution, Washington desires to promote a sympathetic and intelligent understanding of the South and to arouse an appreciation of its cultural contributions to American life. Perhaps no section of the country has made greater progress in the last twenty-five years in the arts of civilization. It seems certain, too, that the next fifty years likewise belong to the South. Without ceasing to point out to its students those universal principles underlying all life and progress, Washington wants to devote itself to stimulating those motives which are to play an important role in building south of the Mason and Dixon Line an even finer civilization in the next half century.

As a rural college, Washington desires to acquaint its students with the ways of living on and near the land. Rural life with its basis in agriculture is, in

many respects, a different civilization from urban life with its basis in industry. The two are complementary halves of the American picture. While they do dovetail into each other, they are, of course, distinct. Washington aims, therefore, to teach an appreciation of life on and near the land believing that a rich civic, social, and spiritual life and a financial competence are as possible and as necessary in the country as in the city.

Specific Aims

Specifically, the program of studies of Washington College seeks to care for the following needs of students:—

1. Professional training for high school training;
2. Pre-professional training for law, medicine, dentistry, college teaching, the ministry, journalism, and business; but most of all
3. Cultural and social training
 - a. To acquaint the student with the fundamental and common knowledge concerning
 - (1) the physical world—matter and energy
 - (2) the human world—men and their ways in the past and present;
 - b. To help the student to think independently and soundly;
 - c. To develop his personality with its powers of self-motivation, self-direction, enthusiasm, appreciation, imagination, cooperation, sympathy, and aspiration; and
 - d. To teach him that the end of knowledge, power and personality, is action and creation as a Christian citizen.





